

three adult females and nine immature individuals taken at Fort Yukon, Alaska (at lat. 66° 32' N.), June 1916, by J. A. Kusche, which is, as far as known, the most extreme northern point for *M. mexicanus*.

Melanoplus fasciatus (F. Walker)

Fairbanks; July 25, 1950; 1 ♀; [Alaska Exper. Sta.].

Big Delta; July 18, 1950; 1 ♂; [Alaska Exper. Sta.].

I have also seen a female of this species taken at Rampart House, Yukon, Canada, August 25–29, 1912, by J. M. Jessup, in the Academy series, and a pair, in the same collection, from Cameron Bay, Great Bear Lake, Mackenzie, Canada, taken August 12, 1937, by T. N. Freeman, which probably represent the most northern known records for the species. Hebard had already reported it from Lake Sarah, Great Slave Lake, Mackenzie, Canada.⁹

A New Subgenus of *Ambrysus* from South America (Hemiptera: Naucoridae)

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PICROPS subgenus novum

The salient features of subgeneric importance separating *Picrops* from the subgenus *Ambrysus* can be summarized in the couplet—

Metatibia ventrally with more than 3 distal, transverse rows of spines, the terminal row longest, each row decreasing in length proximally; male possessing a short, lateral process on the sixth tergite	<i>Picrops</i>
Metatibia ventrally with 3 or less such rows; male lacking a short, lateral process on the sixth tergite	<i>Ambrysus</i>

At present, *Picrops* is known only from the single species, described below.

⁹ Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., LXXXII, p. 396 (1930).

Ambrysus usingeri species novum

General appearance: Quite markedly angular, with a tendency toward slinness for the genus; size, 9.0–9.5 mm. long, 5.0–6.0 mm. wide; dorsum moderately mottled in color, the lighter areas being pale yellow, the darker regions varying from brown-to-black, with an occasional deep reddish tinge; venter generally dull yellowish with no conspicuous mottling.

Head: Dorsally markedly triangular in form, the front margin (including eyes) broadly rounded; the posterior margin less sinuate in its insertion into the anterior edge of pronotum, but more in the shape of a very broad, rounded "V"; a deep reddish suffusion is often present in the eyes and along the front of the vertex; the centrum between the eyes may be yellowish with only faint and weak, small, pale brown markings, or may be entirely medium-brown with only a narrow border along the inner margin of each eye still showing in the background yellow color, 1.20 mm. long and 2.25 mm. wide. Eyes slightly protuberant, much darker than rest of head; shaped like an isosceles triangle, inner and outer margins being subequal and much longer than the hind margin (in the ratio of, respectively, 18::19::12); hind margins of eyes bordered by a well-developed chitinous bar which protrudes as a prominent angle at the postero-lateral corner of eye, and is a unique development, *Ambrysus melanopterus* being the only other member of the genus with even a suggestion of this protrusion. Labrum somewhat deeply semi-circular, with only a suggestion, at times, of any tendency to develop a point at the tip, length-to-width 23::33 (69%); deep reddish-brown in color, with a definite lighter, yellowish area at central base; mouthparts color of the yellowish area on labrum, or even lighter. Head ratios are:

- 1) total length to width (including eyes), 30::50 (60%)
- 2) outer eye-length to inner eye-length, 19::18 (95%)
- 3) anterior distance between eyes to posterior distance, 16::30 (53%)
- 4) posterior length of eye to anterior distance between eyes, 12::16 (75%)
- 5) posterior distance between eyes to greatest length of head posterior to this line, 47::18 (38%).

Pronotum: Angular in general form, flat, quite narrow, well-mottled with light-to-dark reddish-brown on a yellow background, in the more contrastingly mottled specimens with a



Ambrysus (Picrops) usingeri, $\times 6$

pronounced suffusion of reddish along pronotal edges and in anterior portion of disc; posterior edge of pronotum conspicuously and characteristically with the wide, uniformly light-colored band, bordered anteriorly with the similarly character-

istic thin, black line; pronotal edges with two distinguishable darker areas anteriorly and posteriorly; postero-lateral angles sharp and abrupt, a line drawn through them coinciding approximately with the posterior thin, black transverse line, the angles markedly exceeding a right angle (varying between 100° and 120°); edges smooth, non-serrate, even under high magnification, lateral curvature weak, most pronounced in anterior half, becoming flat in posterior quarter (per cent of curvature, expressed in terms of straight-line distance between anterior and posterior lateral angles and greatest vertical distance between this baseline and line-of-curvature, is 10-12% (av. 13::120)); viewed cephalad or caudad, region of posterior angles slightly but definitely reflexed, thence rising abruptly, along posterior margin, over wing insertions, and continuing as a moderately plane surface to opposite side of pronotum, the curvature there being reversed; surface coarsely and shallowly punctate, the punctures becoming pit-like in the anterior central part behind greatest penetration of head and elongated, but never actually attaining a rugose condition so commonly seen in many species of the genus. Venter dull yellowish, occasionally with a roseate tinge along sides, and irregularly equipped with moderately long, yellow hair; ventral keel rounded posteriorly, rising anteriorly to a sharp point between procoxae.

Scutellum: Generally lighter at corners and in middle than over remainder of surface, although in dark specimens only the posterior angle may be lighter; surface rough, minutely punctulate; in pinned specimens in which the pronotum is in normal position, i.e., approximately on a plane surface with remainder of body, the ratio of the three sides, anterior and two laterals, is 58::41::42.

Hemelytra: Surface rough, minutely granulose, color a mottling of light and dark browns, the latter becoming black in dark specimens; membrane quite unicolorous; embolia narrow (length-to-width, 116::37 = 32%), light yellow in anterior two-thirds, darker in posterior part; line of color change perpendicular to the long axis of the body; hemelytra exposing lateral edges of connexiva which are yellow with a prominent

dark reddish-brown spot at the postero-lateral angles, conspicuously but minutely serrate along the edges, and strongly spined at the postero-lateral angles; the brown spot on each connexivum bears a series of yellow hairs which are much longer and more prominent than those arising elsewhere on the connexivum; hemelytra just attaining abdominal tip in length.

Venter: The prothoracic venter has been discussed above. Entire venter opaque-yellow, that of the abdomen minutely and densely clothed with a fine pelt of short, yellow hairs, the meso- and meta-sterna only thinly clothed with longer, yellow hairs; connexival spines well-developed on all segments except I, which completely lacks a spine; the spines increase almost imperceptibly in size from segments II to IV; the angle-of-curvature along the connexival edge from spine to anterior angle is even, with no abrupt deflection of the outline inward under the shadow of the preceding connexival spine; female subgenital plate well-rounded along the median line, becoming almost tubular in the posterior one-third, and narrowing quite markedly from base-to-apex; apex is strongly and angularly incised, the angle at base of incision approximately a right angle, while the lateral, terminal angles bordering the incisure are slightly more than right-angulate; male genitalia lacking the genital hook or process so typical of *Ambrysus*, and possessing a projection on the right side of tergite VI.

Legs. Prolegs: Coxa elongate-globular, yellow, occasionally weakly tinged with rose color on posterior surface, smooth; trochanter well-developed, smooth, yellow, with mat of short yellow hairs on anterior edge; femur smooth, yellow, widest near proximal end, narrowing rapidly to distal end, and with characteristic short, very dense mat of hairs along front border which serves as a resting groove for the tibia when closed against femur. Although the femur has the characteristic elongate-globular, swollen appearance of the genus (i.e., strongly incrassate), it is much slenderer, ratio of length to greatest width being 87::38 (44%) to 90::43 (48%), measured over the ventral surface; tibia very long and slender, smooth, yellow,

curved most strongly in distal portion where, with the single tarsal segment, it forms a continuous, curved, grasping instrument—combined tibia-tarsus—when closed, distinctly overlapping the union of femur and trochanter.

Mesolegs: Coxa long, narrow, dull yellowish, still somewhat globular, well-furred with very short, dense, yellow pile; greatest length of coxa lying parallel to median axis of body; trochanter large, distinct, smooth, yellow; femur very long, narrow, smooth, yellow, posterior edge sparsely beset with moderately long yellow hairs, most conspicuous towards base; ratio of length to median width of ventral surface is 92::10 (11%); length 2.55 mm.; tibia yellow, long, narrow, strongly beset with numerous reddish spines, arranged in series along the four rounded "angles" formed by the dorso-ventral compression of the tibia; distal end ventrally equipped with three transverse rows of spines set in a solid row across the width of tibia, each row overlapping the following, the last row set in the end of tibia; ratio of length to median width, 116::7 (6%); tarsus slender, smooth, yellow, three-segmented, terminating in two large, almost colorless claws.

Metalegs: Coxa swollen, globular, well-furred with short pile, dull yellowish; trochanter well-developed, smooth, yellow; femur long, narrow, smooth, yellow, ratio of length to median width 142::18 (13%), from ventral view, slightly narrower in middle than at either end, 3.0 mm. long; tibia thickly beset with brownish-red spines as in mesotibia, but spines longer, more prominent, and more evidently unequal in size, long and short spines alternating; at distal end, several transverse series of spines set in rows across width of tibia, 8 series being evident under strong magnification, the terminal series largest and widest, each series decreasing slightly in size until the 8th consists of a sole bristle; a very conspicuous, dense mat of very long yellow hairs arising from inner side; ratio of length to median width 187::9 (5%); tarsus slim, smooth, yellow, three-segmented, with two series of small, yellow spines and a dense mat of longer, yellow hairs beneath, terminating in pale yellowish claws.

Distribution: see types.

Type locality data: BRAZIL: *Rio Purus* (Lago Berury Region), (ix)35, A. M. Olalla.

Location of types: Holotypic male, allotype, one paratype (from type locality), one paratype (BRITISH GUIANA: *Honey Camp Creek*, 24(x)37, S. Harris) and one paratype (DUTCH GUIANA: *Republiek Coropina Creek*, 17(iv)44, D. C. Geijskes) in the Snow Museum, University of Kansas, Lawrence; one paratype each (from type locality) in the collections of Robert L. Usinger (Berkeley, California) and the writer (Reno, Nevada); one paratype (FRENCH GUIANA: *Cayenne*, no other data) in the Paris Museum, France.

The Cayenne specimen was found by Dr. Usinger in the Paris Museum where Noualhier, many years ago, had given it the manuscript name "Tapinocoris planisternis." A general discussion of group relationships within the genus *Ambrysus* is forthcoming in a paper now in press.

REFERENCE

LA RIVERS, I. *In press.* A revision of the genus *Ambrysus* in the United States (Hemiptera: Naucoridae). Univ. Calif. Publ. Entom.

Observations on the Habits of Certain Syrphids (Diptera)

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Eupeodes volucris Osten Sacken

This species seems to reach its greatest numbers early in the season. Larvae were taken in March and early April. Reared adults emerged in the laboratory in April. No parasites were reared from this species.

Scaeva pyrastris (Linn.)

This species reaches its peak late in April, with reared adults emerging as late as May 16. A parasite, *Diplazon laetatorius* (Fabr.), was reared from this fly.